

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Serial No. 10/559,950

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A fixing assembly for securing a fixing member to a surface of a component, the fixing assembly comprising:
 - the surface of the component;
 - a fixing member wherein (a) the surface comprises a female location feature and the fixing member comprises a male location feature, or (b) the surface comprises male location feature and the fixing member comprises a female location feature, the male and female location features fitting together in use; and
 - a fixing screw that passes through an aperture in the fixing member to secure the fixing member to the surface.
2. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the fixing screw is available for securing the component to a second component.
3. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the fixing screw is external to the surface of the component.

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4. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein each of the male and female location features have at least one corresponding undercut to form an interference fit in use.

5. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 4, wherein the interference fit forms a dovetail joint.

6. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the male location feature comprises at least one portion that is generally flat in profile.

7. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the male location feature comprises at least one portion that is conical in profile.

8. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the male location feature has a slit, such that the male location feature is divided into two arms.

9. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 8, wherein the male location feature is located on the fixing member.

10. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 9, wherein the slit extends radially from the aperture of the fixing member.

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11. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 10, wherein the slit is formed in a plane substantially parallel to the axis of the aperture.

12. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 10, wherein the slit is formed in a plane substantially perpendicular to the axis of the aperture.

13. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 7, wherein the male location feature is a resiliently deformable material.

14. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the location feature of surface of the component is at least partly located on a rim of the surface.

Claim 15 (canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 9, wherein the fixing screw has a thickened portion that pushes apart the two arms of the male location feature when the fixing screw is screwed into the aperture of the fixing member.

17. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the surface of the component has a threaded portion adjacent a location feature for engaging the fixing screw as the fixing screw is inserted into the aperture of the fixing member.

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18. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the surface of the component has a circumferential groove forming the female location feature to lock the fixing member to the component.

19. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the female location feature is on the fixing member and the male location feature is on the surface of the component.

20. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the component is an acetabular cup.

21. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the surface of a the component is a surface of a cup of a prosthetic ball and socket joint.

22. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the fixing member is secured to an external surface of the component.

23. (Previously Presented) A kit of parts for a fixing assembly for securing a fixing member to a surface of a component, the kit comprising:
at least one component, each component comprising a surface;
a fixing member, wherein (a) each surface of a component comprises a female location feature and the fixing member comprises a male location feature, or (b) each surface of

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a component comprises a male location feature and the fixing member comprises a female location feature, the male and female location features configured to fit together in use, and
a fixing screw that passes through an aperture in the fixing member to secure the fixing member to the surface of one of the at least one component.

24. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 23, wherein the fixing member is secured to an external surface of a component.

25. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 23, wherein the surface of one of the at least one a component is the surface of a cup of a prosthetic ball and socket joint.

26. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 23, wherein the fixing screw is available for securing one of the at least one component to another component.

Claim 27 (cancelled)